

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCAR 02015 010645 Z

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 NIC-01 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

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R 010630 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5522

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

CINCEUR

DIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 2015

E. O. 11652: HDS

TAGS: PFOR MILI RO

SUBJECT: CEAUSESCU ON MILITARY CONTACTS WITH WEST
AND ROMANIAN DEPENDENCE ON USSR FOR EQUIPMENT

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN A SPEECH NOTEWORTHY FOR ITS FULSOME
PRAISE OF ARMED FORCES AS INSTRUMENTS OF THE PARTY' S
POLITICAL LEADERSHIP, CEAUSESCU ADDRESSED A TWO- DAY
MEETING OF THE ARMY' S POLITICAL DIRECTORATE MAY 30. OF
PARTICULAR INTEREST, CEAUSESCU SAID THAT THE GOR IS AND
WILL REMAIN DEPENDENT ON THE SOVIET UNION FOR MODERN
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PAGE 02 BUCAR 02015 010645 Z

TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT DESPITE CERTAIN SUCCESSES AT HOME MANUFACTURE, AND WITH PARTICULAR RELEVANCE TO US- ROMANIAN MILITARY EXCHANGES AND CONTACTS, CEAUSESCU ENDORSED AS " POSITIVE" ROMANIAN MILITARY CONTACTS WITH " CAPITALIST STATES." END SUMMARY.

2. CEAUSESCU SOPKE ON SECOND DAY OF CONFERENCE OF 173 MEMBERS OF ARMY' S POLITICAL DIRECTORS (" PARTY ACTIV") WHICH WAS ALSO ATTENDED BY MARUER AND TROFIN. ION COMAN WAS IDENTIFIED IN HIS NEW POSITION AS CC CHIEF OF SECTION (FOR SECURITY AND ARMED FORCES) AND MAJOR GENERAL CONSTANTIN OPRITA IN SAME PRESS ACCOUNTS AS COMAN' S SUCCESSOR AS DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER AND SECRETARY OF THE HIGHER POLITICAL COUNCIL.

3. ARMY' S LOYALTY TO PARTY LEADERSHIP AND ITS POLITICAL- ECONOMIC ROLE AND CONTRIBUTIONS WERE SINGLED OUT FOR PARTICULAR ATTENTION. ALTHOUGH CEAUSESCU AS CUSTOMARY ALSO SPOKE OF VARIOUS SHORTCOMINGS, HE MADE NO SPECIFIC CRITICISMS AND TONE OF SPEECH WAS VERY WARM THROUGHOUT.

4. ON PRECEDING DAY, CEAUSESCU HAD TOURED AN EXHIBIT OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT PRODUCED IN ROMANIA. WHILE PRAISING SUCCESSES IN THIS FIELD, CEAUSESCU ACKNOWLEDGED IMPORTANT LIMITATIONS IN SAYING THAT GOR DID NOT PROPOSE TO PRODUCE ALL IT NEEDED: " WE ARE AND WILL ALSO BE IN THE FUTURE TIED TO SIGNIFICANT IMPORTS OF MODERN TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT FROM FRIENDLY COUNTRIES, FROM THE SOCIALIST STATES, AND ESPECIALLY FROM THE SOVIET UNION."

5. OF INTEREST WITH REFERENCE TO THE GROWING GOR BILATERAL MILITARY CONTACTS WITH " CAPITALIST COUNTRIES" (NOTE THAT SPEECH COINCIDED WITH FIVE- DAY VISIT HERE OF BRITISH CHIEF OF STAFF, GENERAL CARVER), CEAUSESCU SPECIFICALLY ENDORSED SUCH EXCHANGES AS BEING FULLY CONSISTENT WITH ROMANIA' S POLICY OF FOSTERING TIES WITH ALL COUNTRIES-- INCLUDING THE WEST. HE SAID MILITARY CONTACTS WITH VARIOUS CAPITALIST STATES " IS A POSITIVE THING" TO BE " CULTIVATED."

6. IN DISCUSSING ARMY' S FUTURE ROLE IN LARGE ECONOMIC PROJECTS, CEAUSESCU REVEALED THAT SOMETIME IN FUTURE THE

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PAGE 03 BUCAR 02015 010645 Z

ILL- FATED AND ABONDONED BLACK SEA CANAL PROJECT OF THE FIFTIES (CONNECTING THE DANUBE WITH PORT OF CONSTANTA) WILL BE BEGUN AGAIN TOGETHER WITH LARGE- SCALE IRRIGATION PROJECTS. COMMENT: THE BLACK SEA CANAL PROJECT HAS BECOME THE SYMBOL OF THE INJUSTICES AND ABUSES OF ROMANIA' S STALINIST PERIOD (FORCED LABOR, DEATHS ETC.) AND ITS VERY NAME STILL PROVOKES VERY STRONG, NEGATIVE PSYCHOLOGICAL

REACTION.

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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